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Date: May 13, 2003

Signature: *Andrew Beam*

Docket No.: HO-P02540US1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Scholler, Gordon S., et al.

Application No.: 09/896,429

Group Art Unit: 3739

Filed: June 29, 2001

Examiner: A. Farah

For: IMPROVED APPLANATION LENS AND
METHOD FOR OPHTHALMIC SURGICAL
APPLICATIONS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JANUARY 31, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 31, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as set forth below:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, and 17 as follows:

1. An improved applanation lens for use in an interface between a patient's eye and a surgical laser system[that does not discolor or lose light transmittance when subjected to gamma radiation], said improved applanation lens comprising:

a lens having an applanation surface configured to contact the eye, said lens being formed of high purity silicon dioxide (SiO₂) such that said lens does not discolor or lose light transmittance when subjected to gamma radiation.

5. The improved applanation lens of claim 1, wherein said applanation lens is formed of an SiO₂ with a purity great enough to resist discoloration upon prolonged irradiation by high